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### **NAVAJO NATION SUPREME COURT CONDUCTS FIRST HEARING USING VIDEO CONFERENCING TECHNOLOGY**

**WINDOW ROCK** – The Navajo Nation Supreme Court used IP-based video conferencing for the first time on April 10, 2012 to conduct a habeas corpus hearing involving a detained minor.

In M.C., A Minor, v. Delores Greyeyes, No. SC-CV-16-12, the hearing was held at the Administrative Office of the Courts conference room in Window Rock, Arizona. The Department of Justice, Office of the Chief Prosecutor, Crownpoint Judicial District Court, and the Office of the Public Defender appeared for argument in person, while the detained minor, accompanied by a public defender, participated via video conferencing technology from the Western Juvenile Detention Center in Tuba City, Arizona.

The video conferencing equipment consisted of a high- definition monitor and sophisticated speaker and microphone system that enabled high quality participation.

Video conferencing has been implemented at some Navajo Nation judicial districts to be used when officials or parties are not able to appear in person at a forum due to the size of the Navajo Nation, scarcity of personnel and funding resources, and other factors.

Hearing the petition were Chief Justice Herb Yazzie, Associate Justice Eleanor Shirley and Associate Justice-by-designation Cynthia Thompson.

Normal rules for court proceedings applied during the hearing.

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